

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 17-25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicant submitted an Information Disclosure Statement on May 13, 2004. An initialed PTO-1449 form from that Information Disclosure Statement has not yet been received.

Applicant respectfully requests that the initialed PTO-1449 be provided with the Notice of Allowance.

In addition, the Examiner has not acknowledged the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, or receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. Acknowledgement of both in the Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, Figures 1 and 2 have been amended so that block 65 refers to "line cards" as requested by the Examiner. Approval of the replacement drawing sheets is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 26-42. Claims 17-25 have been canceled, not because Applicant acquiesces to the Examiner's rejection, but because Applicant believes that allowed claims 26-42 provide an appropriate scope of protection.

The application is now in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is earnestly submitted.

ROOS

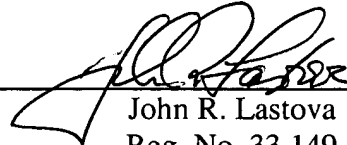
Appl. No. 09/732,878

November 24, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Lastova", is written over a horizontal line.

John R. Lastova

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1 and 2. These sheets, which include Figs. 1 and 2, replaces the original sheets including Figs. 1 and 2.